

48



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,231	06/22/2001	Brian Siegel	50P4086.01	7537

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EXAMINER

WOO, ISAAC M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

48

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/888,231

Applicant(s)

SIEGEL ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-121 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-121 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-121 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickerson et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,724, hereinafter, "Nickerson") in view of Edlund et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,546,388, hereinafter, "Edlund").

With respect to claims 1-5, 34, 59-60 and 89-93, Nickerson discloses, the method, and system for providing an evaluation of a plurality of information sites to a user over a packet-switched network when the user submits a search request through a user interface device in communication with the packet-switched network, selecting a plurality of individuals who were previously in communication with at least one of the information sites (32, fig.1, col. 3, lines 45-67 to col. 4, lines1-9) over the packet-switched network (Internet) and who meet at least one predefined criterion selected (47, fig. 4, col. 4, lines 40-55) by the user, see (col. 3, lines 51-67 to col. 4, lines 1-3, col. 4, lines 40-65); retrieving from a database a plurality of evaluations of at least one of the

Art Unit: 2172

information sites (rating each web page, col. 2, lines 37-46), the evaluations being provided by the plurality of individuals, see (fig. 6, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15); and selecting advertisements (report, fig. 6), forwarding a rating based on the evaluations to the user over the packet switched network, see (col. 4, 40-67, col. 5, lines 26-67). Nickerson does not explicitly disclose, acquiring a search result, responsive to the search request, which includes network addresses for the plurality of information sites. Edlund discloses the search engine returns search results based on the original query. These search results are typically sorted ascending or descending based on content relevance. The search result list contains unique identifiers for search result items (e.g., URL, network address), along with some abstract and additional information for each search result item, see (col. 8, lines 39-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was to include acquiring a search result, responsive to the search request, which includes network addresses for the plurality of information sites as claimed in the system of Nickerson to provide the search engine for search result with network address (URL). Because the search engine in the Internet provides information search result to user with network address (URL) that provides the direct link to that information search result site.

With respect to claims 6-7, 35-36, 61-62 and 94-95, Nickerson discloses, the evaluations are quantitative evaluations (fig. 6) and qualitative evaluations (fig. 4, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 8, 63 and 96, Nickerson discloses, the rating includes a ranking of the plurality of information sites, see (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 9-12, 37-40, 64-67 and 97-100, Nickerson discloses, the packet-switched network is the Internet (22, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 61-37) and the network address is an Internet address, see (col. 4, lines 26-37) and internet address, site, is URL, see (col. 2, lines 24-62).

With respect to claims 13, 41, 68 and 101, Nickerson discloses, the user interface device is a personal computer, see (14, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 38-61).

With respect to claims 16, 43, 71 and 104, Nickerson discloses, the plurality of individuals providing an evaluation includes a plurality of participants and the window further includes a pull-down menu that includes the series of predefined criteria for selecting a subset of the participants, see (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 17, 44, 72 and 105, Nickerson discloses, the predefined criteria include self-rated levels of expertise in predefined categories, see (fig. 4, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 18, 45, 73 and 106, Nickerson discloses, the predefined criteria are selected from the group consisting of activities, hobbies, demographics, subjects studied, and professional affiliations, see (fig. 4, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 19-21, 46-48, 74-76 and 107-109, Nickerson discloses, the user and the plurality of individuals are subscribers to a common service, internet service provider, operated by search engine operator, see (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 45-61).

With respect to claims 22, 49, 77 and 110, Nickerson discloses, the window includes a text box for receiving user evaluations of the information site, see (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 23, 50, 78 and 111, Nickerson discloses, the pull-down menu that includes a list of predefined ratings reflecting user evaluations of the information site, see (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 24, 51, 79 and 112, Nickerson discloses, pull-down menu that includes a list of predefined ratings reflecting user evaluations of the information site, see (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

With respect to claims 25-28, 52-54, 80-83 and 113-116, Nickerson discloses, forwarding an advertisement to the user over the packet-switched network (Internet) and the advertisement (report) is provided in the window and the advertisement based at least in part on the search request and based at least in part on user information located in the database, see (col. 4, 40-67, col. 5, lines 26-67).

With respect to claims 29, 84 and 117, Nickerson discloses, the search request is a key word search request, see (col. 1, lines 29-63).

With respect to claims 30, 55, 85 and 118, Nickerson discloses, the connectivity to the packet-switched network for the user interface device, see (fig.1, col. 3, lines 38-61).

With respect to claims 31-33, 56-58, 86-88 and 119-121, Nickerson discloses, the biographic information concerning the plurality of individuals, the self-rated levels of expertise in predefined categories of information selected from the group consisting of activities, hobbies, demographics, subjects studied, and professional affiliations, see (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 40-65, col. 5, lines 60-67 to col. 6, lines 1-15).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Warris et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,131) discloses the system for distributing a work process on an information network comprises a first subsystem to contract members of a virtual community having access to the information network to perform tasks associated with the work process, the members having an interest in the work process. A second subsystem dispatches tasks to the members requiring the members to evaluate information accessible on the information network and receive the evaluations of the members. A third subsystem processes the evaluations to perform the work process.

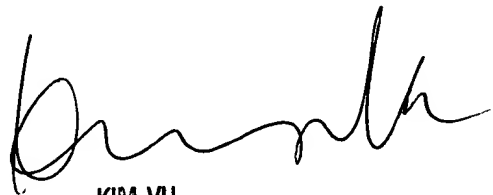
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

IMW
November 4, 2003



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100